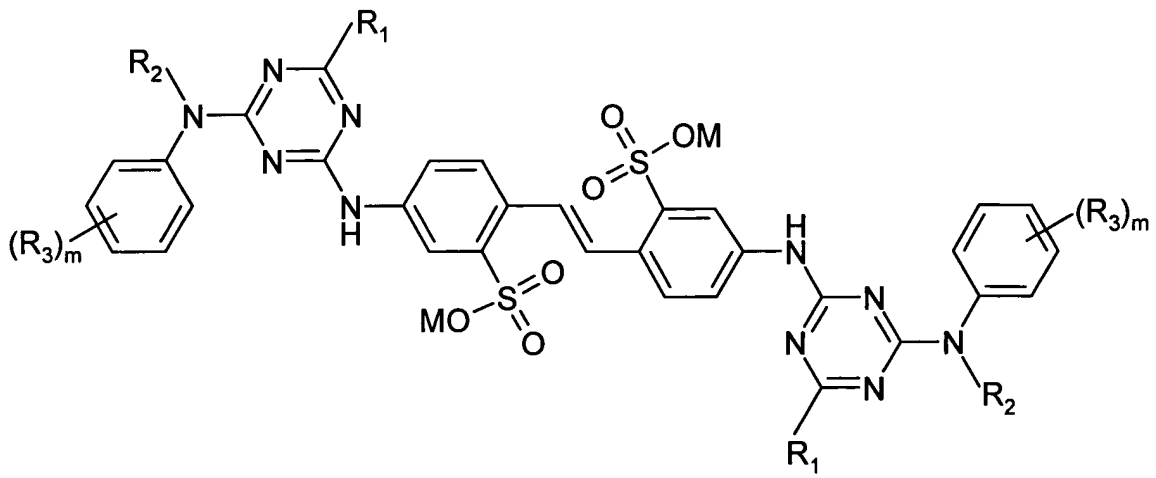
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (currently amended): A compound having the formula:



(1)

wherein each

R_1 represents, independently, a 2-methoxyethylamino group or an amino acid group from which a hydrogen atom on the amino group has been removed; each

R_2 represents, independently, a ~~linear C_1-C_4-alkylene group~~ methylene, ethylene or propylene residue which is ~~unsubstituted or~~ substituted by hydroxy, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -$OCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, -CO_2M, CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl SO_3M or phenoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1 -C_4-alkoxy, -CO_2M or -CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl, NH_2 or mono- or disubstituted amino; or phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 -SO_3M, -SO_2NHC_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO_2NH_2, -CO_2M, -CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl, -$CONH_2$, -$CONHC_1$-C_4-alkyl, -$NHCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl or mono- or disubstituted amino groups; each

R_3 represents, independently, hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, halogen, cyano, -SO_3M, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NHC_1-C_4-alkyl, -CO_2M, -CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl, -$CONH_2$, -$CONHC_1$-C_4-alkyl, or -$NHCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl;

M is hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine and

m is an integer of 1 to 3.

2. (original): A compound according to claim 1 in which both of the R_1 groups, the R_2 groups and the R_3 groups are identical.

3. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 2 in which each R_1 is an amino acid group and each has the formula -NH-CH(CO_2H)-R_4 in which R_4 is hydrogen or a group having the formula -CHR_5R_6 in which R_5 and R_6, independently, are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from hydroxy, thio, methylthio, amino, carboxy, sulfo, phenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 3,5-diiodo-4-hydroxyphenyl, β-indolyl, β-imidazolyl and NH=C(NH_2)NH-.

4. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 3 in which the amino acid from which the amino acid group R_1 is derived is glycine, alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine ((β-imidazolyl-alanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine, hydroxyglutamic acid or taurine, or the R_1 groups are derived from mixtures or optical isomers of said amino acids.

5. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 in which the amino acid from which the amino acid group R_1 is derived is sarcosine, taurine, glutamic acid or aspartic acid.

6. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 in which the amino acid from which each amino acid group R_1 is derived is aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid.

7-11. (cancelled).

12. (currently amended): A compound according to claim ~~10~~ 1 in which R_2 is hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, ethoxyethyl, hydroxyethoxyethyl, methoxyethoxyethyl, the group -CH_2CO_2H or -$CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ or methyl or ethyl esters thereof, the group -$CH_2OC(=O)CH_3$ or -$CH_2OC(=O)C_2H_5$, dimethylaminoethyl or ethyl sulphonic acid or the sodium salt thereof.

13. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 12 in which R_2 is hydroxyethyl or the group -$CH_2C(=O)O^-Na^+$.

14. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 in which each R_2 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 SO_3M, SO_2NHC_1-C_4-alkyl,-SO_2NH_2, -CO_2M, -CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl,

-$CONH_2$, -$CONHC_1$-C_4-alkyl, -$NHCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl or mono- or disubstituted amino groups, wherein M is as defined in claim 1.

15. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 14 in which each R_2 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one SO_3M, -SO_2NH_2 or -$NHCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl group.

16. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 14 in which each R_2 is phenyl.

17 (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 in which R_3 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, halogen, cyano, SO_3M, -SO_2NH_2, SO_2NHC_1-C_4-alkyl, -CO_2M, -CO_2C_1-C_4-alkyl, -$CONH_2$, -$CONHC_1$-C_4-alkyl, or -$NHCOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, M being defined as in claim 1 and m is 1.

18. (original): A compound according to claim 17 in which R_3 represents hydrogen.

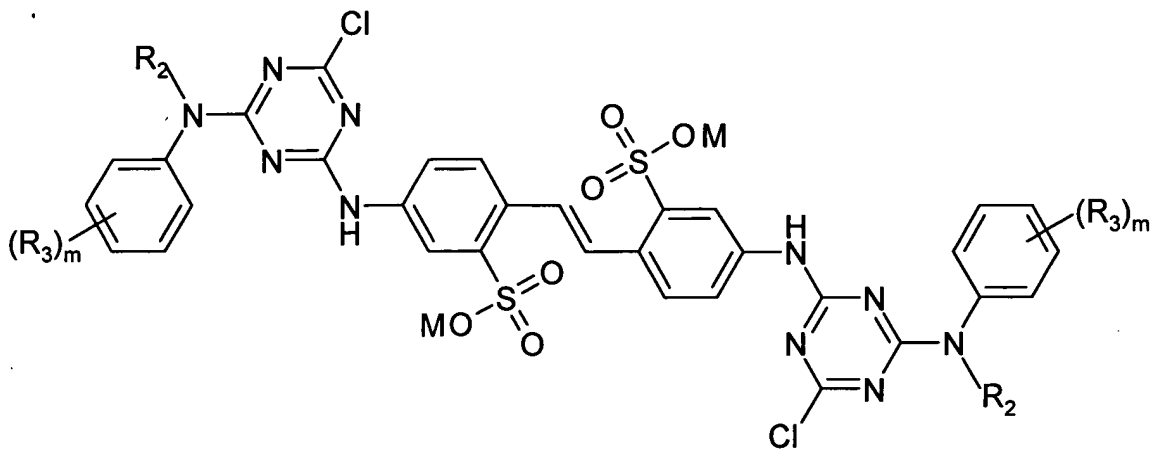
19. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1 in which M is hydrogen, Na, K, Ca, Mg, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-C_1-C_4alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri-C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl-ammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of C_1-C_4-alkyl and C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl groups.

20. (original): A compound according to claim 19 in which each M is hydrogen or Na.

21. (previously presented): A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:
R_1 is an amino acid group derived from aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid,
R_2 is hydroxyethyl,
R_3 is hydrogen and
M is sodium.

22. (previously presented): A compound of the formula 1 in which:
R_1 is a 2-methoxyethylamino group,
R_2 is the group -$CH_2C(=O)O^-Na^+$,
R_3 is hydrogen and
M is sodium.

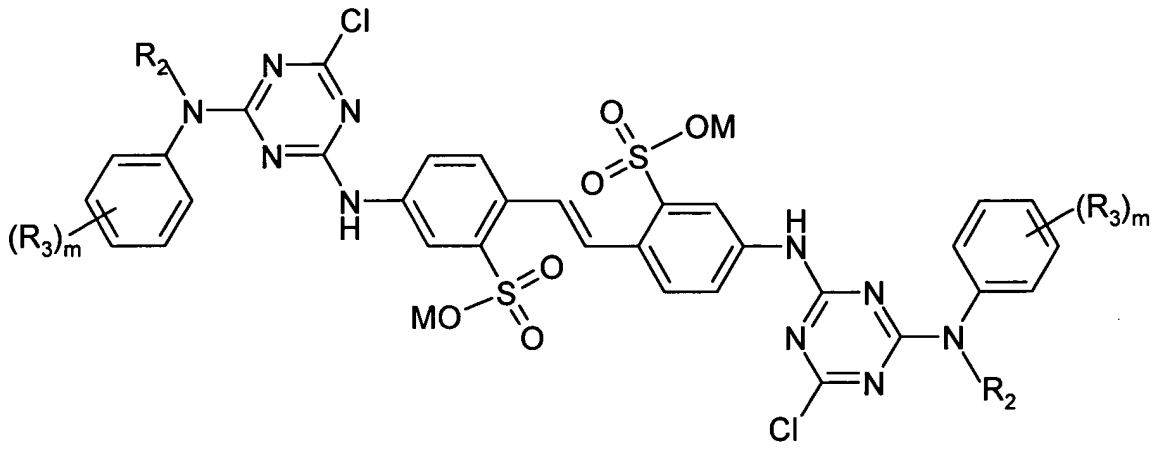
23. (original): A compound of the formula:



(5)

in which R_2, R_3, M and m are as defined in claim 1.

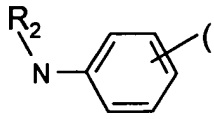
24. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (1) according to claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of formula



(5)

with a compound capable of introducing a group R_1 in place of ~~X~~ Cl, in which R_1 R_2, R_3, M and m are as defined in claim 1.

25. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1 by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diamino-2,2'-stilbene disulphonic acid, an amino compound capable of

introducing a group  in which R_2, R_3 and m have their previous significance,

and a compound capable of introducing a group R_1, in which R_1 is as defined in claim 1.

31. (previously presented): A composition for whitening synthetic or natural organic materials, which contains water, a fluorescent whitening agent according to claim 1 and, optionally, auxiliaries.

32. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 31 containing water and, in each case based on the weight of the formulation, from 3 to 25% by weight of the fluorescent whitening agent and also 0 to 60% of auxiliaries.

33. (previously presented): A method for the fluorescent whitening of a substrate comprising contacting the substrate with a compound having the formula (1) as defined in claim 1.

34. (previously presented): A method according to claim 33, wherein the substrate is paper and the compound of formula (1) is applied to the paper substrate in the form of a paper coating composition, or directly in the size press.

35. (previously presented): A method according to claim 34 for the fluorescent whitening of a paper surface, comprising contacting the paper surface with a coating composition comprising a white pigment; a binder dispersion; optionally a water-soluble co-binder; and a sufficient amount of a fluorescent whitening agent having the formula (1), to ensure that the treated paper contains 0.01 to 1 % by weight, based on the white pigment, of the fluorescent whitening agent of the formula (1).

36. (previously presented): A method according to claim 34 for the fluorescent whitening of a paper surface comprising contacting the paper in the size press with an aqueous solution containing a size, optionally an inorganic or organic pigment and 0.1 to 20g/l of a fluorescent whitening agent of the formula (1).

37-39 (cancelled).

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6, 10-25 and 31-36 were pending in this application.

Claims 31-36 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-6, 10, 17, 19, 24 and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowman et al., WO 96/00221.

Claims 1-6, 10, 17, 19, 24 and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohringer et al., WO 98/42685.

Claims 11-16, 18, 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 12 and 24 have been amended.

Claims 1-6, 12-25 and 31-36 are presented for reconsideration.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in accord with the current rules in which underlining shows additions and strikethrough shows deletions. No new matter has been added.

The proposed amendment to claim 24 corrects a self-evident error: formula (5) shows a chlorine on each triazine ring.

Claims 1-6, 10, 17, 19, 24 and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowman et al., WO 96/00221, and claims 1-6, 10, 17, 19, 24 and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohringer et al., WO 98/42685, the examiner maintaining that the compounds in these publications are closely related to those claimed which have methyl on the anilino nitrogen versus prior art hydrogen.